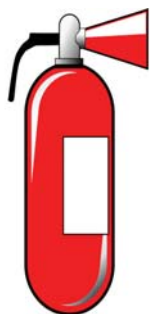


Preparedness and Planning

Michigan Gets High Ranks for Emergency Preparedness

The Trust for America's Health released the fifth annual [*Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Disease, Disasters, and Bioterrorism*](#) report. The report found that while important progress has been made, critical areas of the nation's emergency health preparedness effort still require attention. Michigan was grouped with fourteen other states coming in second with significant progress in nine of the ten categories surveyed. Michigan missed a perfect score in the tenth category because we do not have the recommended number of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. The report said the state had adequate plans to distribute vaccines, had purchased its share of vaccines and antiviral medicines, had sufficient laboratory facilities to test for outbreaks and those facilities were available round-the-clock, was using a surveillance system similar to the national system, had conducted health emergency training with the National Guard and public health officials, had laws on the books to provide liability protection to health workers providing services in an emergency, and had increased its seasonal flu vaccination rates and had increased funding for public health services.



Twelve Days of Christmas Preparing Families for Disaster

Over the recent holidays, the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) shared the "[*Twelve Days of Christmas Preparing Families for Disaster*](#)". The ARC recommended purchasing these stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts designed to make individuals, families and the homes they live in as safe as possible. For instance, some of the recommended gifts include: a new smoke alarm, a fire extinguisher, a family/pet disaster supplies kit, a first aid kit, and other important resources.

Emergency Medications Study Promising

The [*Emergency MedKit Study*](#) conducted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tried to determine whether individuals could properly store, maintain and retrieve a medkit containing doxycycline (or ciprofloxacin) in the event of a declared biological emergency. The medkit was a 5-day supply of either doxy or cipro. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved the Medkit prototype used for this study. The FDA reports that the approval process will take an estimated three years. The study results are promising: 97% of the households were successful in storing and retrieving the medkit and did not consume the medicines in the kit.

News

Health Literacy

In an emergency preparedness context, health literacy impacts an individual's ability to evaluate information for credibility and quality, analyze relative risks and benefits, calculate dosages, interpret test results, or locate health information. See [page 2](#) for more information.

Human-to-Human Bird Flu Case Confirmed by WHO

On December 27, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed a case of human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 bird flu virus in a family in Pakistan. See [page 3](#) for more information.

Webinar on PanFlu Planning for Colleges and Universities

The Michigan Department of Community Health, in conjunction with higher education partners, has archived a free webinar on pandemic planning for higher institutions of learning in Michigan. See [page 4](#) for more information.

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TourSolver® Software for SNS Asset Distribution

TourSolver® is a powerful and easy-to-use software-modeling tool that was designed to assist community planners in preparing and exercising rapid and efficient transport and distribution of Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) medicines and supplies in the event of a public health emergency. TourSolver® can be used as both a planning and a response tool. It electronically runs transportation routes from the Receiving, Storing, and Staging (RSS) warehouse(s) to points of dispensing (PODs) in order to demonstrate an optimal distribution plan. Users may customize parameters to reflect local conditions, run multiple scenarios, and ask “what if” questions that will simulate real world events. Planners, using as many or as few constraints as desired, can then quickly assess the impact of these conditions on the overall distribution operation. For readers with access, various TourSolver documents have been posted on the MI-HAN. Contact Rick Pietz (404-639-2791; fpietz@cdc.gov) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for more information.

Public Health Mutual Aid Agreements

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Public Health Law Program has released [Public Health Mutual Aid Agreements - A Menu of Suggested Provisions](#), as a tool public health and other agencies may use to strengthen their all-hazards emergency preparedness. The document can be downloaded online.

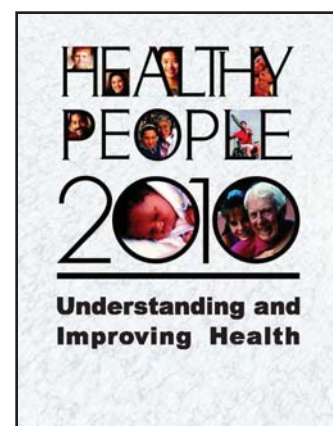
GAO Report on Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is responsible for keeping terrorists and other dangerous people from entering the country while also facilitating the cross-border movement of millions of travelers. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined CBP traveler inspection efforts, the progress made, and the challenges that remain in staffing and training at ports of entry, and the progress CBP has made in developing strategic plans and performance measures for its traveler inspection program. GAO made [recommendations](#) aimed at enhancing internal controls in the inspection process, mechanisms for measuring training provided and new officer proficiency, and a performance measure for apprehending inadmissible aliens and other violators.

Communications

Health Literacy and Emergency Preparedness

Health literacy is defined in [Health People 2010](#) report as the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. In the report *Healthy People 2010*, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services included improved consumer health literacy as an objective, and identified health literacy as an important component of health communication, medical product safety, and oral health. According to the American Medical Association, poor health literacy is a stronger predictor of a person’s health than age, income, employment status, education level, and race. In an emergency preparedness context, health literacy impacts an individual’s ability to evaluate information for credibility and quality, analyze relative risks and benefits, calculate dosages, interpret test results, or locate health information. This is particularly



important for policy makers to understand in order to mitigate the risks to individuals with low health literacy and/or low English proficiency. A range of resources are available for more information on health literacy.

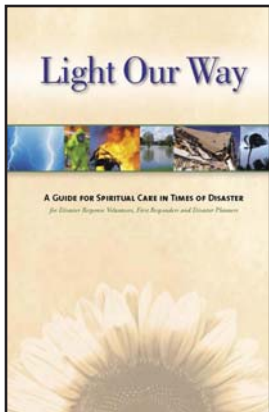
- [MSU Health Literacy Brochure](#)
- [MSU Extension Health Literacy Project](#)
- [Oakland Literacy Council](#)
- [Michigan Literacy, Inc.](#)
- [Michigan Adult Learning & Technology Center](#)
- [Clear Health Initiative](#)
- [The Federal Government's 1998 Plain Language Initiative](#)
- [California Health Literacy Initiative](#)
- [National Network of Libraries of Medicine](#)
- [Institute of Medicine](#)
- [National Institutes of Health](#)

Conference Presentations Available

In follow-up to the 2007 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided [PDF files](#) of many of the conference presentations. Approximately 70% of the speakers granted permission to share their presentations. The CDC is also working to make available podcasts featuring speakers and their presentations in the near future.

Spiritual Tool to Assist Emergency Responders

[Light Our Way](#) provides spiritual health tools to assist disaster relief workers while they are performing and recovering from their response efforts. The document is noteworthy, because it uses concrete and useful advice that may be particularly valuable in enhancing resiliency among faith-based and community organizations. Much of the information on emotional health and cross-cultural communications also may be useful for a secular audience. It should be noted that the listed funders and task force members for this document represent Christian denominations and United Jewish Communities. Some of the recommendations may need to be considered for their appropriateness within a different religious or cultural context. State and local health agencies may hesitate to incorporate spiritual guidance in their pandemic preparedness materials, yet this document acknowledges a fairly broad definition of spiritual health and provides useful information and support for disaster workers and clergy.



Surveillance

Human-to-Human H5N1 Transmission Confirmed

On December 27, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed a case of [human-to-human transmission](#) of the H5N1 bird flu virus in a family in Pakistan. Pakistan invited a WHO team to investigate the outbreak, and the WHO team found no evidence of sustained or community human-to-human transmission. The outbreak followed a culling of infected chickens in the Peshawar region, in which a veterinary doctor was involved and subsequently infected. It was the first human-to-human case of H5N1 transmission in Pakistan, while others have been confirmed in Indonesia and Thailand in similar circumstances of what the WHO calls close contacts in a very circumscribed area.

Possible Predisposition to Dying from Influenza

A [recent study](#) supports the hypothesis that there exists an inherited predisposition to developing and dying from severe influenza. There are other infections for which genetic predisposition has been shown to play a role in disease severity, but this is the first study that looked at such predisposition with influenza. Demonstrating a heritable contribution to death due to influenza is particularly challenging since familial clusters of disease might also be caused by shared exposure to the same virulent virus. Understanding the host factors that account for greater susceptibility to severe infection and death is important in the development of sound policies for protecting the greatest number of people and lessening the impact of epidemics and pandemics.

Breakthrough Possible in Testing for Bird Flu

A Central Michigan University (CMU) researcher is poking holes in the ice at area waterfowl watering holes, hoping to find a new way to stand guard against the potentially deadly bird flu. The lethal strain of the avian influenza virus -- known as H5N1 -- has killed more than 150 people worldwide since 2003, with more than 4,000 outbreaks in poultry and deaths in more than 60 wildlife species. By sampling water where birds congregate during migratory stopovers, CMU researchers believe a trace of the disease should be detectable. If successful, this method could be a cost-effective way to test for avian influenza in migratory waterfowl.



Excerpted from Elizabeth Shaw / Flint Journal

Pandemic Planning

Pandemic Planning for Colleges and Universities

The Michigan Department of Community Health, in collaboration with its planning partners at Michigan colleges and universities, has archived a free [webinar on pandemic planning](#) for higher institutions of learning in Michigan. Specific objectives were to understand the nature of pandemic influenza and why it poses a threat to the continuing operation of academic communities; to learn the principle components of a good pandemic plan; and to understand the role that colleges and universities have in community emergency and public health response. After viewing the webinar, please take a few moments to fill out the attached contact information sheet, along with a webinar evaluation. Additional resources can be found under the "resources" tab on the website.

Department of Energy's Pandemic Influenza Planning

The government issued mandates to federal agencies to conduct pandemic influenza planning. On November 1, 2005, the President announced the "National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza," requiring federal agencies that perform mission-critical functions, including the Department of Energy (DOE), to develop agency pandemic influenza plans. This [final report](#) outlines the pandemic influenza planning that has taken place by the DOE, and can be accessed online.

Stay at Home Toolkit for Influenza

As healthcare facilities become overwhelmed during pandemic influenza, many of the sick may have to receive care elsewhere, including at home. The Stay at Home Toolkit for Influenza, developed by health officials in Maryland's

Montgomery County, offers the public practical guidelines on how to nurse ill household members. The [simple guide](#), from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Services, highlights prevention and care-giving with outlines on what people should or should not do when assisting those sick with the flu.

FFIEC Interagency Statement on Pandemic Planning

The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) agencies are jointly issuing guidance to remind financial institutions that business continuity plans should address the threat of a pandemic influenza outbreak and its potential impact on the delivery of critical financial services. This [guidance document](#) addresses what financial institutions should plan for during a pandemic with regards to business continuity. The document is available online.

Pandemic Influenza and Pregnant Women

Planning for a future influenza pandemic should include [considerations specific to pregnant women](#). First, pregnant women are at increased risk for influenza-associated illness and death. The effects on the fetus of maternal influenza infection, associated fever, and agents used for prophylaxis and treatment should be taken into account. Pregnant women might be reluctant to comply with public health recommendations during a pandemic because of concerns regarding effects of vaccines or medications on the fetus. Guidelines regarding non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., voluntary quarantine) also might present special challenges because of conflicting recommendations about routine prenatal care and delivery. Finally, healthcare facilities need to develop plans to minimize exposure of pregnant women to ill persons, while ensuring that women receive necessary care.

Other News

Michigan Preparedness Official Honored

The Michigan Emergency Management Association honored the county-level top emergency preparedness official as its 2007 coordinator of the year. Ms. Vicki Wolber of Roseville is the acting director of the Macomb County Emergency Management and Communications Department. The department is responsible for working with law enforcement, fire departments, first responders and others to prepare for disasters. Ms. Wolber earned the award through votes by her peers in the association.

NJ Requires Flu Shots for Preschoolers

On December 12, New Jersey became the first state to require flu shots for preschoolers, saying their developing immune systems and likelihood of spreading germs make them vulnerable to complications. State Health Commissioner Dr. Fred M. Jacobs approved the requirement and three other vaccines over the objections of some parent groups. New Jersey also will require preschoolers to get a pneumococcal vaccine and sixth-graders to get vaccines against meningitis, which New Jersey already requires for college dormitory residents, and a booster shot against whooping cough, which in recent years has seen a resurgence blamed on waning potency of shots given to infants and preschoolers. New Jersey does grant an automatic exemption on religious grounds and allows exemptions for medical reasons. The new vaccines will be available for free for low-income families, and private insurers generally will cover the cost.

Excerpted from Linda A. Johnson / Associated Press Writer

Become a Sentinel Physician

Medical providers of any specialty (e.g., family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease) in nearly any setting (e.g., private practice, public health clinic, urgent care center, emergency room, university student health center) who are likely to see patients with influenza-like illness can be sentinels. Sentinel physicians receive free laboratory testing (respiratory virus culture) for approximately eleven specimens per site per year. The most important consideration in deciding to volunteer, however, is that the information provided each week by influenza sentinels is critical for protecting the public's health in Michigan.

Training & Education

Addressing Health Literacy, Cultural Competency, and Limited English Proficiency

Unified Health Communication 101: Addressing Health Literacy, Cultural Competency, and Limited English Proficiency is a free online learning experience designed to help health professionals improve their patient-communication skills, increase their awareness and knowledge of factors that affect their communication with patients, and implement patient-centered communication practices. The course, developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration, comprises five modules and is estimated to take a total of 5 hours to complete. The course may be completed at the user's own pace and may be taken for credit (CEU/CE, CHES, CME, and CNE) or not for credit. More information, including registration instructions, is available online.

Michigan State Police Training Opportunities

The Michigan State Police - Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training Center (EMHSTC) has numerous training opportunities available for you in 2008. Please visit the EMHSD website and click on the "2007-2008 Training Course List" link for all of the course information and to register for the courses online. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Stacy Schneider at (517) 322-6515 or schneids@michigan.gov.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 15, 2008 1-2pm	Radiation Event Medical Management Web Portal - A Novel Resource for Health Care Providers At the conclusion of the call, participants should be able to: identify the various types of radiation mass casualty events; distinguish between radiation exposure and radiation contamination; Rapidly locate resources needed to assist in the diagnosis, quantification, and treatment of radiation exposure; Rapidly locate resources needed to assist in the diagnosis, quantification, and treatment of radiation contamination; Describe the recommended procedures for external decontamination; List several isotopes of concern in a radiation mass casualty event; Identify available medical counter-measures for use in victims of a radiation mass casualty event. Participants will want to have an internet connection available for this call as we will explore the <u>REMM Web Portal</u> together.	Conference Call (888) 889-4952 passcode: 3679908

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 15, 2008 1:30pm	Surviving the Next Pandemic: Bird Flu and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases Dr. Michael Greger, M.D. - Director of Public Health and Animal Agriculture The Humane Society of the United States – presents information from his book Bird Flu, A Virus of Our Own Hatching. RSVP required, as seating is limited. Please call (989) 773-5921 ext 161 or email or LCross@cmdhd.org	Soaring Eagle Casino 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 Black River Ballroom
Jan. 16, 2008 9am-3pm	Mercury Spill Response Workshop This workshop will cover topics such as the health effects from exposure to mercury vapor and local, state, and federal response to a spill. The workshop is free and lunch will be provided. See the informational flyer for more information. Contact Ms. Sue Manente (517-335-9003 or manentes@michigan.gov) to confirm your attendance.	Hills & Dales Hospital 4675 Hill Street Cass City, MI 48726
Jan. 16, 2008	Food & Ag Border Gateway Summit This one-day seminar in Southeast Michigan on the status of imported food and agricultural products. U.S. and Canadian agencies responsible for the varied components of protecting food and agriculture will provide information about current challenges and future trends, and attendees from local, state, and federal agencies as well as Canadian officials and the private sector will interact and better understand the risks, consequences, and opportunities to protect the food and agriculture sector and the public health. Register online and use the (case-sensitive) password "gateway".	Oakland Comm. College Orchard Ridge Campus Smith Theatre 27055 Orchard Lake Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48334-4579
Jan. 16, 2008 2-3:30pm	International Public Health Education: The experience From MPH Programs in Developing Settings Worldwide This program was presented at the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. Speakers describe three examples of developing Masters of Public Health programs in Uganda, India and Bangladesh. See the informational flyer for more information.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Jan. 17, 2008 1-2:30pm	Fitness for Duty: A Simple System for Making Health Related Change Program faculty will describe a model for understanding the components of successful health behavior change and a system for providing individuals with a core set of evidence-based behavior change skills. This particular approach gives individuals the skill base to make changes in a variety of behaviors including diet, exercise, medication adherence, screenings and immunizations. See the informational flyer for more information.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Jan. 23, 2008 2-3:30pm	How Can Use of the Performance Standards Drive National, State and Local Public Health Policy? This program was presented at the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. Speakers highlight achievements and discuss updates and goals of the national model performance standards for state and local public health systems and local governing entities. See the informational flyer for more information.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 24, 2008	Food Supply and PanFlu Tabletop This full-day exercise, held at Meijer Corporate headquarters will involve the private sector and multiple parts of local and state government, including public health, food regulation, and emergency planning. The tabletop exercise will focus particularly on the business continuity of food processors, distributors, and retailers during a pandemic, and the interface with public health. Register early as seating is limited. Visit the Department of Agriculture's online registration system . The name of the survey is "Pandemic & Food Supply Continuity". The case sensitive password to log-in is "foodsupply" (one word).	Meijer Corporate Office 2727 Walker Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49345
Jan. 30, 2008 8-1:30pm	Basic Disaster Life Support Courses This five-hour didactic course is designed to develop commonality of approach and language and to improve the care and coordination of response in WMD disaster and public health emergencies. The curriculum includes an overview of the "D-I-S-A-S-T-E-R" paradigm, injuries and responses associated with different types of disasters, an overview of the public health system, and the psychosocial aspects of disasters. Please refer to the informational flyer for more information and registration details.	RESA Auditorium 5454 Venoy Road Wayne, MI 48184
Jan. 30, 2008 2-3:30pm	Political Leadership, Health Policies and Health Disparities This program was presented at the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. Speakers discuss the design of strategies to eliminate health disparities worldwide by studying demographics and utilizing new technologies. See the informational flyer for more information.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Jan. 31, 2008 1-2:30pm	The Emergency Management Assistance Compact and Its Application for Public Health Emergency Response and Recovery Operations This broadcast will provide an introduction to EMAC – its organization, processes, and procedures. The presenters will also discuss how EMAC was used to provide public health and environmental health emergency response assistance during the 2005 hurricane season and how it can be used to mitigate resource shortfalls in future disasters. See the informational flyer for more information.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Feb. 5, 2008	Legal Issues in Emergency Management This one-day workshop discusses current laws and legal issues in emergency management and homeland security. Topics covered are the Michigan Emergency Management Act, public health codes, fire laws, police powers, mutual aid compacts, liability issues, and current disaster case law.	Lansing
Feb. 28-29 or Mar. 5-6, 2008	Basic PIOs' Workshop This is a two-day workshop for entry-level or less experienced disaster Public Information Officers (PIOs) and staff, emphasizing the skills needed to manage crisis information in emergency and disaster events. Topics include responsibilities of a Public Information Officer in disasters, effective media interviews, crisis information planning, and Joint Information Center (JIC) management.	Gaylord Lansing

Date/Time	Event	Location
Mar. 3-4, 2008	National Hospital Emergency Preparedness Conference The <u>conference</u> will provide information on the new Joint Commission standards, the new NIOSH requirements, how the federal funding stream works, the role of the corporate office in the midst of a crisis, and how to handle staff behavioral health support. CME, ANCC Contact hours and ACEH credits are offered. For more information, call Ms. Lisa Rizzolo at (202) 877-7453.	Washington, DC
Mar. 5, 2008 8:30am-4pm	Health Literacy The "Plain Language" training will feature Janet Ohene-Frempong who is a specialist in developing clear, effective cross-cultural consumer communications. Their focus is on nutrition but health literacy principles will be covered. <u>Reservation information</u> will be located online. The registration fee is \$35.	Michigan State Univ. Kellogg Center Big Ten Room East Lansing, MI 48824
Mar. 11-14, 2008 8:30-5pm	Emergency Services Media Relations Seminar This intensive, <u>four-day seminar</u> has been developed especially for senior leaders, PIOs and others with media and public relations responsibilities in law enforcement, fire, medical, health, schools and other emergency services, hospitals, government and private organizations with crisis communication needs. This course is especially designed to train you how to work and partner with those in other fields during a crisis. Fee is \$525.	Virginia Beach Resort Virginia Beach, VA
Apr. 15-16, 2008 Jun. 17-18, 2008	PREPARE Train-the-Trainer Prepare the long-term care workforce with knowledge and competencies to deal with natural disasters and other public health emergencies. Readiness, recognition, and multidisciplinary response to disasters and emergencies. Educate core trainers. Produce an effective long-term care workforce able to treat older adults in such emergencies. Alert the public health system of emergencies. Resources for continuing disaster preparedness education. Evaluating the program's impact. There is no charge for attending this program. See the <u>informational flyer</u> for details. <u>Register now</u> as seating is limited.	Gaylord Lansing
Apr. 22-24, 2008	Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference Save the Date! More details will follow.	<u>DeVos Center</u> 303 Monroe Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 T: (616) 742-6500
Apr. 30-May 2, 2008	COOP Train-the Trainer This course provides emergency planners and other interested parties with the knowledge and skills to develop Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and then be able to offer training to other emergency planners and state, local, and tribal personnel in their jurisdiction. Look for the COOP link on the <u>MI-TRAIN homepage</u> for more information.	OPHP Joint Activity Room Lansing, MI
May 5-6, 2008	Emergency Planning This two-day <u>course</u> examines emergency and disaster planning principles and Michigan initiatives for new emergency management professionals. Planning concepts include preparedness, mitigation planning, hazard analysis, hazardous material planning, and new federal initiatives. This course is strongly recommended for all entry-level emergency managers.	Lansing

Date/Time	Event	Location
May 19-22, 2008	Effective Managing Transit Emergencies This <u>course</u> will provide information on understanding the importance, purpose, development, and implementation of emergency management and how it relates to the other safety functions of a transit system. Participants will learn how to better understand the emergency management concept and the role of the transit system in responding to emergency/disaster situations in both the community and transit system. Materials fee is \$55.	Grand Rapids, MI
May 22, 2008	Developing Volunteer Resources This one-day <u>course</u> is designed to cover a broad range of issues in disaster volunteerism expanding on the concepts presented in the prerequisite Independent Study. Topics will include spontaneous volunteerism in disasters, liability issues, marketing, recruitment, and recognition of volunteers.	Lansing
Jun. 12, 2008	Behavioral Mental Health Conference Save the Date! More details to follow.	Lansing
Jul. 8-10, 2008	Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference Save the Date! For more information, view the <u>announcement flyer</u> .	Ann Arbor, MI
Jul. 23-24, 2008	Emergency Planning for Special Needs Populations This two-day <u>course</u> covers the unique concerns for organizations responsible for the care of "special needs" groups in disasters. This course will expand on the concepts covered in the prerequisite Independent Study 197 by discussing definition of "special needs populations" and highlighting the planning elements of mass care, sheltering, and evacuation.	Lansing



Photo by Jan Cook



Photo by Debbie Crowe

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